Welfare policy for drought hit States

†3976. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any welfare policy for farmers to bail out farmers and agricultural labourers of drought hit States from their plight; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The prime responsibility for taking immediate measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought is that of the State Governments concerned. Most of the State Governments have Relief Code or Scarcity Manual to specifically deal with droughts or for handling natural calamities including drought. The Government of India supplements the efforts* of the States with financial and logistic support, in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commissions for droughts and other natural calamities . Ready availability of funds exists with the States in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking immediate measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought.

Schemes for soil and water conservation in Goa

3977. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether schemes for soil and water conservation are in force in Goa;

(b) the datails of essential features of the schemes;

(c) the details of projects undertaken/implemented under the schemes during the last five years in the State; and

(d) the details of financial assistance granted to the State during that period, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) Following watershed development

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.